

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) CR. NO. 03-00486DAE

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROY ROOSEVELT, JR., (02)

Defendant.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE KEVIN S.C. CHANG
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATE JUDGE
ON JULY 9, 2004

APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff BEVERLY WEE SAMESHIMA, ESQ.

Office of the U.S. Attorney

300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 6100

Honolulu, HI 96850

For Defendant MICHAEL A. WEIGHT, ESQ.

Office of the Federal Public

Defender

300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 7102

Honolulu, HI 96850

Transcriber JUVELYNN PUNZAL

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording, transcript produced by transcription service.

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THE CLERK: Criminal number 03-486DAE, United States of America versus Defendant (02) Roy Roosevelt Ryder, Jr. This case has been called for a hearing on a motion for withdrawal of not guilty plea and to plead anew.

MS. SAMESHIMA: Yes, good afternoon, Your Honor. Beverly Wee Sameshima on behalf of the United States.

THE COURT: Good afternoon.

MR. WEIGHT: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Michael Weight for the defendant. Mr. Ryder is here. We're ready to do the change of plea.

THE COURT: Good afternoon.

Mr. Ryder, is it your intention this afternoon to plead guilty to Counts I and II of the Indictment?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Before I can accept your guilty plea, I must know that you understand what you're doing.

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: That you're pleading guilty freely and involuntarily, that there's a factual basis for your change of plea, and that the end of justice would be met to allow you to change your plea.

To make sure that you understand, I'm going to ask you some questions. If you do not understand any of the words or the questions, will you please say so?

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                  MR. RYDER:
                              Yes.
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                  THE COURT:
                              Would you administer the oath?
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                  THE CLERK:
                              (Administers oath to defendant.)
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                  THE COURT:
                              Mr. Ryder, what is your full name?
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                  MR. RYDER:
                             Roy Roosevelt Ryder, Jr.
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                  THE COURT:
                             And how old are you?
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                 MR. RYDER:
                              Twenty-eight.
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                 THE COURT:
                             How far did you go in school?
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                 MR. RYDER:
                              Seventh grade.
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                 THE COURT:
                             Have you taken any medication,
       alcohol, or drugs of any kind today?
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                 MR. RYDER:
                             No.
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                 THE COURT:
                             Do you feel well and alert today?
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                 MR. RYDER:
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                             Do you understand what is going on?
                 THE COURT:
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                 MR. RYDER:
                             Yes.
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                 THE COURT:
                             Have you been treated recently for any
      mental illness or addiction to narcotic drugs of any kind?
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                MR. RYDER:
                             No
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                THE COURT:
                            Mr. Weight, to the best of your
      knowledge, is the defendant fully competent to enter a valid
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      plea today?
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                MR. WEIGHT: Yes, he is.
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                THE COURT:
                            The Court finds that the defendant is
     fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea.
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4 1 Mr. Ryder, if you choose to enter a guilty plea in this case, you have the right to enter that plea before a 2 United States District Judge. If you consent, however, you 3 may enter your guilty plea before me, a United States 4 Magistrate Judge. If you enter a guilty plea hear today, 5 Judge Ezra would impose sentence at a later hearing. Do you 6 7 understand that? 8 MR. RYDER: Yes. 9 THE COURT: I have before me a document entitled, "Consent to Rule 11 Plea in a Felony Case Before United 10 11 States Magistrate Judge." 12 Mr. Ryder, did you sign this form? 13 MR. RYDER: Yes. 14 THE COURT: Is it your wish to consent to enter your plea before me, a Magistrate Judge, and to give up or 15 waive your right to enter that plea before a United States 16 17 District Judge? 18 MR. RYDER: Yes. 19 THE COURT: Mr. Weight, have you discussed the 20 consent form with your client? 21 MR. WEIGHT: I have. 22 THE COURT: And are you satisfied that he understands it? 23 24 MR. WEIGHT: Yes. 25 THE COURT: Have you also signed the document?

5 1 MR. WEIGHT: I have. 2 THE COURT: The Court finds that the defendant has consented to enter his plea before a United States 3 4 Magistrate Judge. 5 Mr. Ryder, have you received a copy of the Indictment pending against you, that is the written charges 6 made against you in this case? 7 8 MR. RYDER: Yes. 9 THE COURT: Have you fully discussed the charges and all of the facts surrounding the charge with Mr. Weight, 10 11 your attorney? 12 MR. RYDER: Yes. 13 THE COURT: Have you also received a copy of the 14 Special Information that was filed against you in this case? 15 MR. RYDER: This one? 16 THE COURT: The Special Information which alleges that you were -- that you would be subject to enhanced 17 sentencing based upon a prior felony drug offense in the 18 19 First Circuit Court. 20 MR. RYDER: I understand (unintelligible). 21 THE COURT: Have you discussed all of the facts and circumstances surrounding the charge with Mr. Weight, 22 23 your attorney? 24 MR. RYDER: Yes. 25 THE COURT: Are you fully satisfied with the

representation that you've received from Mr. Weight, your attorney in this case?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Mr. Weight, are the defendant's guilty pleas before the Court today pursuant to your advice and recommendation?

MR. WEIGHT: They are, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Ryder, has anyone made any promise or assurance of any kind to you in an effort to get you to plead guilty?

MR. RYDER: No.

THE COURT: Has anyone attempted in any way to force you to plead guilty or to pressure you or threaten you in any way?

MR. RYDER: No.

THE COURT: Ms. Sameshima, what are the maximum possible penalties with regards to Counts I and II?

MS. SAMESHIMA: Yes, Your Honor. The maximum penalties would be life in prison and the minimum penalties with the Special Information would be twenty years mandatory minimum imprisonment. The terms of supervised release would be minimum of ten years up to life. And with respect to the fine, it would be I believe eight -- zero to eight million dollars and there is a special assessment for each count of \$100 for a total of \$200.

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THE COURT: Mr. Weight, do you agree with that summary as to the possible penalties?

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$$ WEIGHT: I agree that that is the correct statement of the penalties.

THE COURT: Mr. Ryder, do you agree with that -do you understand that these are the possible penalties
which would apply if you entered guilty pleas to the charges
in this case?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: If you are convicted with more than one offense, the Court has the authority to order consecutive sentences. If the Court did so, it would mean that you would have to serve those sentences one at a time. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: During the period of supervised release, you must comply with the set of conditions which will be explained to you by a probation officer. Those conditions will include requirements that you will obey the law, that you report as required to the probation officer, and other conditions. If the Court finds that you violated any of those conditions, you could be required to serve additional prison time. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Are you presently on probation,

parole, or supervised release from any other case? 1 2 MR. RYDER: Yes. 3 THE COURT: And that's in the First Circuit Court, 4 yes? 5 MR. RYDER: Yes. 6 THE COURT: Do you understand that if you plead 7 guilty to the present charges, this might result in some adverse action being taken with regards to your probation 8 9 from State court? 10 MR. RYDER: Yes. 11 THE COURT: Ms. Sameshima, does the United States contend that any felony offense to which the defendant is 12 today enter a guilty plea accrue while he was released on 13 bond in relation to some other federal criminal charge? 14 15 MS. SAMESHIMA: No. No, Your Honor, not on federal charge. And, Your Honor, I probably wasn't clear, 16 but the penalties that I recited are with respect to both 17 18 Counts I and II. 19 THE COURT: Yes. You -- you understand that, Mr. 20 Ryder? 21 MR. RYDER: Yes. 22 THE COURT: If you are convicted of the charges in this case, you may lose valuable civil rights including the 23 right to vote, the right to hold public office, the right to 24 serve on a jury, and the right to possess any kind of a 25

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firearm. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: The United States Sentencing

Commission has issued guidelines for judges to use in

determining the sentence in a criminal case. Mr. Ryder,

have you and your attorney talked about how those guidelines

might apply in your case?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Do you understand that Judge Ezra may be calculating your sentence based on guidelines issued by the United States Sentencing Commission and that the validity of the sentencing guidelines is being challenge based on the recent United States Supreme Court decision?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: If the sentencing guidelines are found to be invalid, Judge Ezra will determine your sentence based on admissions that you made at this change of plea hearing. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: That is, if you admit to certain facts at this change of plea hearing, Judge Ezra will rely on those admissions at the time of sentencing and that your admissions may increase your sentence. Do you understand that? Yes?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

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Do you understand that you do not have THE COURT: to admit to factual matters in dispute, but if you make admissions now, those admissions may affect your ability to take advantage of possible developments in the law between now and the time of you sentencing?

MR. RYDER:

THE COURT: Mr. Ryder, do you understand that the Court will not be able to determine the guideline sentence for your case until after the presentence report has been completed and you and the government have had an opportunity to challenge the reported facts and the application and the application of the guidelines recommended by the probation officer, and that the sentenced imposed may be different from any estimate your attorney may have given you?

> MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Do you also understand that after your guideline range has been determined, the Court has the authority in some circumstances to depart from the guidelines and to impose a sentence that is more severe or less severe than the sentence called for by the guidelines?

> MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: If the sentence is more severe than you expected, you will still be bound by your plea. you do not like the sentence imposed by the Court, you will not be able to withdraw your plea. The time to make that

decision is now. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Parole has been abolished. If you are sentenced to prison, you will not be released on parole. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: You have a right to plead not guilty to any offense charged against you and to persist in that plea. You will then have a right to trial by jury. During that trial, you would have the right to assistance of counsel for your defense, the right to see and hear all the witnesses and to have your attorney cross-examine them, the right to testify yourself or to decline to testify and remain silent, and the right to have the Court issue subpoenas for any witnesses you wish to call in your defense.

At the trial you would be presumed to be innocent and the United States would have the burden of proving that you are guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Before you can be convicted, all twelve jurors must be convinced that the United States has met that burden. If you are found guilty after trial, you would have the right to appeal that conviction to a higher court, and if you could not afford to pay the cost of an appeal, the government would pay those costs for you.

Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: If you plead guilty, however, and if the Court accepts that plea, there will be no trial. You will be waiving or giving up your right to a trial and all of the other rights I have described. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Also, so long as you plead not guilty, you have the right to remain silent; but if you plead guilty, you are waiving that right. I will ask you some questions about what occurred and you must answer those questions truthfully under oath even if your answers establish that you committed a crime. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Ms. Sameshima, would you summarize for the Court and the defendant the essential elements which the United States would be required to prove if there were trial on the charges?

MS. SAMESHIMA: Yes, Your Honor.

With respect to Count I, which is the conspiracy court charging the defendant with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers and salts and its

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isomers, the government would have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the existence of an agreement between the defendant and at least one other individual to commit and illegal objective, in this case the distribution and possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine; that the defendant was a member of this conspiracy and intended to accomplish one of the objectives and that the conspiracy involved 50 grams or more. Although it is not an essential element, this is a material fact that we would still have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the conspiracy involved 50 grams or more of pure methamphetamine.

With respect to Count II, the charge that defendant knowingly possessed with intent to distribute a controlled substance, the government would have to prove first that the defendant knowingly possessed a controlled substance, in this case methamphetamine, and that he possessed it with intent to deliver it to another individual and, third, that again a material fact that the possession with intent to distribute did involve 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

THE COURT: Mr. Weight, do you disagree in any respect with that summary?

MR. WEIGHT: No, that is a correct summary for each offense.

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THE COURT: Mr. Ryder, do you understand that if there were trial on the charges, the United States would be required to present evidence sufficient to prove each of these essential elements beyond a reasonable doubt with regards to each of the offenses charged?

MR. RYDER:

THE COURT: Ms. Same -- Ms. Sameshima, would you also state any additional elements which the government would be required to prove either by a preponderance of the evidence or by proof beyond a reasonable doubt to establish the basis for any enhancement of the defendant's sentence?

MS. SAMESHIMA: I can't think of any right now although I know that there was a gun that was found in the vehicle. But I guess the Court is trying to address the Blakely issue at this point and I guess the government's position is that Blakely does not apply to the federal guidelines. However, if at some point any court does find that they do apply, the government's position would be then the entire guideline scheme would be unconstitutional and, therefore, we would ask the Court to sentence the defendant just with the statutory maximum.

So that's the government's position. So I'm not in a position at this point to indicate that we agree that Blakely requires us to prove certain enhancements and I would ask the Court to also go through the Thomas waiver.

THE COURT: I will.

MS. SAMESHIMA: Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. Weight, any comment with regards to Ms. Sameshima's last comments?

MR. WEIGHT: No, Your Honor. The defendant is prepared this afternoon to enter a plea of guilty to the elements as charged in the Indictment, no more, no less.

THE COURT: Mr. Ryder, you've been charged in Count I of the Indictment with a violation of Title 21 United States Code Section 846 which charges you with conspiring to distribute and possess to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers or salts and

its isomers. Do you understand this charge?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Pursuant to Title 21 United States

Code Section 841(b)(1)(A), this charge carries a mandatory

minimum sentence of ten years and a maximum period of

imprisonment of life. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: There is also because of the Special Information that's been filed in this case, the mandatory minimum -- there is a 20-year mandatory term of imprisonment instead of a mandatory minimum of 10 years. Do you understand that?

MR. WEIGHT: Your Honor, with respect to that, I would respectfully point out to the Court that the issue of the applicability of that section may be in question in view of the fact that (unintelligible), the case that says that it still applies itself is now in question and that may be litigated in the future to determine that it doesn't apply. We're aware that as it stands now that -- that my client is -- does have filed against him Special Information and he is aware of that and he is aware of how it might apply.

THE COURT: Mr. Ryder, is what Mr. Weight told me correct?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Do you understand this?

MR. RYDER: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: So do you understand that if that situation as described by Mr. Weight were to apply, the mandatory minimum in this case would be 20 years as opposed to 10 years?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: In order for you to be punished under either of the 10- or the 20-year mandatory minimum, the government has the burden of proving to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that you possessed with intent -- excuse me, that you conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, and salts and its

isomers. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Do you waive your right to have a jury determine both drug type and drug quantity with regards to Count I in this case?

MR. WEIGHT: Your Honor, with that respect -- in that respect, we waive -- we -- we do not waive anything. We plead guilty to his conspiring to possess 50 grams or more of methamphetamine as charged in the Indictment.

MS. SAMESHIMA: And, Your Honor, it's the government's position that -- would be that we want to just preserve our objection to the Court accepting a plea which would preserve the defendant's right to a jury trial on the quantity and waive with respect to the mandatory minimum because it's our view that Blakely would not -- would not affect the mandatory minimum. So that extent, we want to object to the acceptances of plea to that extent, but I -- but I don't think we can stop this from going forward.

THE COURT: Well, let me do this, Mr. Weight, so that the record is complete. Let me just go back and go through the Thomas colloquy with regards to Count II because I'm going to come to the same point with regards to Counts I and II.

In Count II of the Indictment, Mr. Ryder, you're charged with a violation of Title -- Title 21 United States

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Code Section 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A) which charges you with possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, it's salts, isomers and salts and its isomers. Do you understand the charge?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Pursuant to Title 21 United States

Code Section 841(b)(1)(A), this charge carries a mandatory

minimum sentence of 10 years and maximum period of

imprisonment of life. Do you understand this?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: In this case, the government has filed a Special Information which may increase or change the mandatory minimum sentence from 10 years to 20 years and a maximum period of life. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: In order for you to be so punished, the government has the burden of proving to the jury beyond a reasonable doubt that you possessed with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers and salts and its isomers. Do you understand that?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: All right. As with regards to Count II, now with regards to Count -- excuse me. As in the case of Count I and now with regards to Count II, do you waive the right to have a jury determine both drug type and

19 1 quantity in this case? 2 MR. WEIGHT: The answer is no. 3 MR. RYDER: No. 4 THE COURT: Mr. Weight? 5 MR. WEIGHT: Your Honor, again, the defendant is here to enter a plea of guilty as charged in the Indictment 6 7 in both Counts I and Count -- Counts I and II. He is pleading guilty to conspiring to possess with intent to 8 distribute 50 grams of methamphetamine on the date in 9 question and the substantive count of actually possessing 10 with intent to distribute 50 grams on that date. That's 11 what we're pleading to. 12 13 MS. SAMESHIMA: Your Honor, I'll just note the 14 similar objection we made earlier. 15 THE COURT: All right. Is there any objection, in addition to what's already been stated by the government and 16 the defense, to our proceeding with the plea at this time? 17 18 MR. WEIGHT: No. 19 MS. SAMESHIMA: No, Your Honor. 20 THE COURT: All Right. Mr. Ryder, would you tell me in your own words what you did that constitutes the crime 21 22 charged in Count I of the indictment? 23 MR. WEIGHT: Just -- if I might have just a 24 moment, Your Honor? 25 THE COURT: Sure. Um hmm.

THE COURT: So you and Matt intended to sell the 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, yes?

MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: Are you satisfied with Count I, Ms. Sameshima?

MS. SAMESHIMA: I -- I think I'm a little bit unclear because as I understand it, Mr. Ryder earlier on September 22nd, 2003 drove with Mr. Young and another individual to another -- to meet with another individual for the purpose of purchasing a pound which they then later took to another individual's house, actually broke it down and weighed it for distribution. And I -- I didn't really get that from what he said, but if -- if he's agreeing that that's the case, then I think there's enough evidence.

MR. WEIGHT: Your Honor, as I understand the conspiracy, the conspiracy is that in the course of Matt Young's distribution of or attempt to distribute a quantity, 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, to a third party that Mr. Ryder helped him and that's what he said that he helped him by driving the car and he knew that that was the purpose of them going into the location where they went.

In addition, I believe my client is prepared to admit that earlier in the day he had assisted Matt Young weighing 50 grams or more of methamphetamine that turned out to be Mr. Young's according to Mr. Young's statements to the

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22 1 police. 2 MS. SAMESHIMA: Oh, wait a minute now. 3 can we have a break, Your Honor? 4 THE COURT: Sure. 5 MS. SAMESHIMA: Because --6 MR. WEIGHT: Your Honor, let me restate the facts 7 to make sure that we're clear on this. 8 Earlier in the day on the date in question, which 9 is the 22nd of September last year, it's my understanding 10 that Mr. Ryder is prepared to admit that earlier that day he 11 had accompanied Mr. Young when Mr. Young purchased a 12 quantity of drugs, 50 grams of methamphetamine or more. And 13 that on that date Mr. Ryder assisted Mr. Young by weighing 14 and breaking down the quantity of drugs, 50 grams or more, 15 of methamphetamine that was later taken to the Windward City 16 Shopping Center with Mr. Ryder driving the car for Mr. Young 17 to make a delivery to the third party. 18 MS. SAMESHIMA: That's fine. I'm satisfied with that if -- if that's what Mr. Ryder is also saying. 19 20 MR. WEIGHT: Yes. 21 MS. SAMESHIMA: Okay. 22 MR. WEIGHT: Yeah. 23 THE COURT: So the record is clear, did you hear what Mr. Weight just told the Court? 24 25 MR. RYDER: Yes.

THE COURT: The Court finds that the defendant has -- the Court finds that the defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed pleas, that his pleas of guilty are knowing and voluntary and supported by an independent basis and fact containing each of the essential elements of the offenses. I am therefore signing the report and recommendation concerning plea of guilty. Pursuant to Rule 11(e), sub. 2, of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, I recommend that the defendant be adjudged guilty and have sentence imposed. Objections to this report and recommendation are waived unless filed and served within ten days.

Mr. Ryder, I'm ordering our probation department to prepare a presentence report in this case. This is a document about you and about this case which will assist the judge in sentencing. The probation officer will interview you. If you wish, your attorney may be present at that interview. You and your attorney will have the opportunity to read the report before sentencing and to file any written objections to its contents. You and your attorney will also have the opportunity to address the judge at the hearing before the judge imposes sentence.

Date and time?

THE CLERK: Sentencing to Counts I and II of the Indictment is March 28, 2005 at 3:00 p.m., Judge Ezra.

THE COURT: The defendant to re -- to remain in custody pending sentencing pursuant to the earlier detention order in this case. Anything further, Ms. Sameshima? MS. SAMESHIMA: No. Nothing further, Your Honor. Thank you. THE COURT: Mr. Weight? MR. WEIGHT: No, Your Honor. THE COURT: We'll be in recess. (Proceedings concluded.)

STATE OF HAWAII) ss.
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU)

I, JUVELYNN PUNZAL, certified court transcriber for the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings had in connection with the above entitled cause and was transcribed by me to the best of my ability.

DATED at Honolulu, Hawaii this <u>23rd</u> day of <u>August</u>, 2004.

Transcriber